Introduction of Prohibition in Hassan and Bidar Districts.

Q.—28. Sri V. SRINIVAS SHETTY (Coondapoor).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that they have decided to introduce total Prohibition in the Districts of Hassan and Bidar;

(b) whether they have announced this fact to the Press;

(c) whether the Government had not announced in the Legislative Assembly that they would introduce Prohibition in one taluk of Hassan during the current year;

(d) when did they change their earlier decision and for what compelling reasons;

(e) what is the estimated extra loss of revenue involved and how do they expect to make it up ?

A.—Sri N. RACHAIAH (Minister for Social Welfare, Excise and Prohibition):—

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) After taking into account strong public opinion on the subject, the decision to introduce prohibition in the whole District was taken on 22nd April 1959.

(e) The estimated loss is Rs. 27,22,205 and it would be met from out of the surplus of the Budget, if need be.

Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN.—May I bring to the notice of the Government that the information supplied in answer to (c) in Short Notice Question No. 27 is wrong because I have received an acknowledgment from the Chief Minister to say that the strike did go on and that it was against prohibition ?

†Sri N. RACHAIAH:—I have not been able to receive that information. Anyway even if such a request has been made by any section of the people of Hassan District, they have got every right to express their discontent.

Sri V. SRINIVAS SHETTY.—When did the Government come to know of the public opinion ? In what way was it expressed ?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—Public opinion has always been in favour of prohibition and of late it was stronger.

Sri V. SRINIVAS SHETTY.—In what way was it expreseed with regard to Hassan District in this context ?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—With regard to Hassan District almost every legislator from Hassan District, the District Congress Committee and most of the people interested in the district who represent public opinion have expressed themselves strongly in favour of the entire Hassan District going dry.

Sri V. SRINIVAS SHETTY.—When was the opinion conveyed to the Government ?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—It was being received every day and at the time when we took a decision the opinion that we received was very strong.

Sri V. SRINIVAS SHETTY.—When the Government took a decision to introduce prohibition in one taluk in Hassan District, was not the Government aware of the public opinion in Hassan District ?

Sri N. RACHAIAH:—There was not so much strong opinion when we actually took a decision to introduce prohibition in one taluk in Hassan District.

Sri V. SRINIVAS SHETTY.—Government was pleased to inform this House through the Governor's speech that prohibition would be introduced in one taluk in Hassan District; did they not think it necessary to inform this House as to the change of their policy ?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—After all, the House will have to be very happy because we are pursuing the policy already accepted by Government.

Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN:—May I bring to the notice of the Government that so far as Gover or's Address is concerned one taluk in Hassan District is mentioned and in the Finance Minister's speech nothing has been mentioned; as against this how did the Government come to the conclusion that the public opinion was in favour of the entire district being made dry ?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—The statement by the Governor on the floor of this House is also an authenticated one. Anyway, with regard to the introduction of prohibition in the remaining three taluks Government have taken a strong decision to pursue the policy of total prohibition throughout the State.

Dr. R. NAGAN GOWDA.—May I know whether the representatives of the Hassan District in this Assembly have expressed their opinion?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—Yes, they have also expressed their opinion.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಲಿಂಗೇಗೌಡ.—ತಮ್ಮ ಪಾರ್ಟಿ ಮಾಟಿಂಗಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಸನ ಡಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿಕ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪಾನ ನಿರೋಧವನ್ನು introduce ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ಮಾಡಿದುದರ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೀರಿ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ರಾಚಯ್ಯ.—ಪಾರ್ಟಿಯ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದನ್ನು ಅಲ್ಲಿ introduce ಮಾಡ ಬೇಕೆಂದು ಅವರೂ ಚೀಫ್ ಮಿನಿಸ್ಟರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಿ ಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರ ಮೇಲೆ, ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಯಿತು.

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—Has any member the right to ask the treasury benches to disclose what happened in a private meeting?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—Party meeting proceedings are not relevant here.

Sri C. J. MUCKANNAPPA.—Is it open to any member to disclose what happened in a District Congress Committee meeting?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—It was also announced on the floor of the House.

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—I did not say what happened in the District Congress Committee meeting. I said Government have received representations from the District Congress Committee and other important sections of the district. In fact they have also sent congratulatory letters to Government expressing their gratitude for having introduced prohibition in the entire district.

Sri F. H. MOHSIN.—May I know when we can have total prohibition in the State?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—With all confidence I may express that at the rate at which we are going you may expect within four years from 1st July 1959 that is the dead line—total prohibition would be introduced in the State.

Sri C. J. MUCKANNAPPA.—May I know what happened to the statement of the Minister for Excise on the floor of the House that the policy of the Government is to go slow? How did the Government come to a conclusion to introduce prohibition in the entire State?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—Government have not come to a decision. I said members may expect total prohibition in the State within four years.

Sri D. ABDUL RASHEED.—May I know whether the Government have received a request from the Bombay Government to declare 10 miles belt as a dry area on the Bombay border?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—Yes, Government have received a communication from the Bombay Government to that effect. We have taken a decision and also notified to that effect. So, in addition to the two districts of Hassan and Bidar we have also made dry 10-mile belt on the Bombay border.

Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN.—The answer seems to suggest that the introduction of prohibition depends upon public opinion; may I know what the Government will do if the public opinion in any particular area is definitely and decidedly against prohibition?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—That is not the only factor on which Government will take a decision; that is one of the factors. As per the policy accepted by the party in power and also of the Government we are pursuing the policy of total prohibition.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ರಾಮಪ್ಪ.—ನಾವು ಎಷ್ಟು ಒತ್ತಾಯ ದಿಂದ ಕೇಳಿಕೊಂಡರೂ ನೀವು ಮಾಡದೆ, ನಿಮ್ಮ ಪಾರ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಒತ್ತಾಯ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೀರಂಬುದು ನಿಜವೇ?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—That is not correct.

Sri V. SRINIVAS SHETTY.—Is it not a fact that this change over was due to the compulsion of certain members of the party on the Government?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—No, Sir; that is not correct. But the party has got every right to give its opinion. Anyway, it is open to the Government to take a decision and of their own accord they have taken a decision.

Sri Kadidal MANJAPPA (Minister for Revenue).—There is nothing wrong in Government being guided by the party in power.

Sri C. J. MUCKANNAPPA.—Will the Government accept if I say that it is not by compulsion but by threat of some members that this decision has been taken ?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—On this point I have made it clear that the party in power has got every right to decide any issue and so as per the manifesto and also according to the principles of the party constitution it is being done.

Sri F. H. MOHSIN.—The Hon'ble Minister was pleased to state that total prohibition would be introduced within four years ; may I know whether Government have a programme as to which of the districts will go dry next year ?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—I cannot say at this stage.

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಎಲ್. ನರಸಿಂಹಯ್ಯ.—ಹಾನನ ಡಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿಕ್ಟನಲ್ಲ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪಾನನಿರೋಧವನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದದ್ದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ದೇಶದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ತಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಶ್ಲಾಘಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರಲ್ಲವೆ ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್. ರಾಚಯ್ಯ.—ಅನೇಕರು ಮೆಚ್ಚಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ರಾಮಪ್ಪ.—ಈಗ ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾನನಿರೋಧವು ಎಷ್ಟುಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆಯೆಂಬುದನ್ನು ತನಿಖೆಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದು ಕಮಿಟಿಯನ್ನು ನೇಮಕ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೀರಾ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್. ರಾಚಯ್ಯ.—ಈಗ ಪಾನನಿರೋಧ ಅಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಾ ಬಹಳ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿದೆಯೆಂದು. ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿದೆ. ಏನಾದರೂ ಲೋಪದೋಷಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ, ಅವನ್ನು ಸರಿಪಡಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಮಾಡುವುದರ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನಕ್ಕೆಲ್ಲಾ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುವಹಾಗೆ ಕಾನೂನನ್ನು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಜೆ. ದೊಡ್ಡಮೇಟಿ.—ಮಾನ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಉತ್ತರ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾ, ಓಪ್ಪೊ ಇದು ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿದೆಯೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿ, ಮತ್ತೆ ಲೋಪದೋಷಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ ಸರಿಪಡಿಸುತ್ತೇವೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆಯೆಂದ ಮೇಲೆ ಲೋಪದೋಷಗಳಿರುವುದು ಹೇಗೆ ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್. ರಾಚಯ್ಯ.—ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ತಪ್ಪು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡರೆಂದು ಕಾಣುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಕೆಲವರು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಪಡುವಂತೆ ಏನಾದರೂ ಲೋಪದೋಷಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ, ಅದನ್ನು ಸರಿಪಡಿಸಿ, ಪಾನನಿರೋಧವನ್ನು ಇನ್ನೂ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ: ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾನೂನು ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಸಮಾನವಾಗಿ ಅನ್ವಯ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಈಗಿರುವ ಕಾನೂನನ್ನು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಮಾಡಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಸೆಷನ್ನಿನಲ್ಲಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಯೋಚನೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

Sri G. VENKATAI GOWDA.—In this Address the Governor was pleased to announce that Prohibition would be introduced in only one taluk in Hassan and in one taluk in Bidar. I want to know whether before taking the present decision, the Governor was appraised ?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—Government places every matter requiring approval before the Governor. In this case also, the Governor was appraised.

Sri J. B. MALLARADHYA.—Why should Government display undue nervousness on the question of appointing a Committee to assess the extent to which Prohibition has been a success in the State ?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—Government have been thinking of codifying the different sets of laws on this subject prevailing in the different regions of the State. After we integrate the laws, at the time of bringing an amendment Act we may consider the suggestion.

Sri J. B. MALLARADHYA.—My question is different. It is now more than two years since integration took place. Government have made a claim that the introduction of Prohibition in certain areas has been a success. There is a large volume of public opinion which says that it has been a thorough and tragic failure. In view of these conflicting opinions, why should Government fight shy of appointing an independent Committee to assess the extent to which this policy has been a success ?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—That it has not been a success, may be the opinion of the Hon'ble Member. As far as Government is aware it has been a complete success. I was only saying that, as the Hon'ble Member knows, there are five sets of laws in the integrating units, Government have already drafted a bill and it has been referred to the Scrutiny Committee and very shortly, at least in the next session, Government are thinking of introducing an amendment bill. After the new codified bill is given effect to, we may consider Hon'ble Member's suggestion. At present we are not thinking of setting up any committee.

Sri G. VENKATAI GOWDA.—As a decision on this has been taken after the Budget has been presented, are

Government aware that it is bound to affect the revenue side adversely?

Sri N. RACHAIAH:—It may affect. The budget is surplus. There will be funds to meet the loss.

Sri V. P. DEENADAYALU NAIDU:—My friend Sri Mallaradhya suggested the appointment of a committee to assess the success or failure of Prohibition. Would not the setting up of such a committee conflict with the directive principles of the Constitution, at least in respect of such areas where Prohibition has already been introduced? Can a committee now sit in judgment and say whether Prohibition is necessary or not in those areas?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—I agree entirely with the Hon'ble Member's view. Moreover, Hon'ble Members are aware that Government are shortly constituting a State-level Board which will go into the working of this Act. The consititution of this committee has already been announced by the Chief Minister. Hence there is no question of setting up a new committee for this purpose.

Sri C. J. MUCKANNAPPA.—The Minister was pleased to say that Prohibition was working successfully. Does he mean to suggest that people have given up drinks?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—So long as drink is not available, they have to give it up.

Sri M. RAMAPPA.—Is Government aware that in order to make Prohibition a success a committee of non-officials should have control over the police in the Prohibition areas?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—With regard to this, Government is thinking of constituting committees at the taluk, district and State level in order to enlist the co-operation of the public, officers and also the Members of this House.

Sri J. B. MALLARADHYA.—Will the Minister kindly enlighten me as to how the constitution of a committee, which I proposed, would conflict with the Directive Principles of the Constitution?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—The need for a Committee arises only if the Government comes to know that Prohibition has not been a success. So long as they feel that it is a success and they are confident of making it successful, the question of constitutionsa committee does not arise.

Sri J. B. MALLARADHYA.—No, Sir. That is not my question. When hon'ble Sri Deenadayalu Naidu asked whether the setting up of a committee would not conflict with the Directive Principles of the Constitution, I heard the Minister saying that he agreed with him. I would like the Minister to explain how the constitution of a committee to assess the degree of success achieved in the prohibition policy, would run counter to the terms of the Directive Principles of the Constitution?

Sri GAJANAN PANDIT.—The short-notice question which we are discussing relates to Hassan district. May I know if we are in order in discussing generally Prohibition policy?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—Yes. It is part of the general question.

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—Sir, hon'ble Sri Mallaradhya raised a serious objection. In reply to hon'ble Sri Deenadayalu Naidu I did not say that the constitution of a committee would go against Constitutional guarantees. In any case it is clear that a committee cannot sit in judgment over Government's decision or action. But in this case Government are fully aware that it is a complete success and as long as Government holds such an opinion and they are confident of it, there is no point in setting up a committee at present.

Sri R. CHENNIGARAMAIAH:—Sir, some hon'ble Members are saying that prohibition has not been successful. Is it not a fact that in most social reforms, complete success is unattainable and despite lapses here and there they are in the main considered successful?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—I agree that in such social reforms some irregularities are inevitable. Government would certainly remove loopholes.

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಪಿ. ರೇವಣ್ಣಸಿದ್ಧಪ್ಪ.—ಈ ಪ್ರಾಯೋಷ್ಠ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಕಡೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿರಾ ನೀರಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆಯುತ್ತೀರಾ?

Sri N. RACHAIAH.—That is not relevant to this question.

Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN.—The Minister said that the measure had been welcomed by all sections of the people. Is the Government aware that one of their well-wishers, the 'Deccan Herald' and 'Praja Vani' do not agree with them?

Sri B. D. JATTI.—Sir, I take objection to the use of such expressions. It is not correct.

Sri N. RACHIAH.—I too take serious objection, Sir. Government believes that 99 per cent of the public opinion is in favour of Prohibition and in fact 99 per cent of the people affected in Mysore State have expressed their gratitude for introducing Prohibition.

Sri C. M. ARUMUGHAM.—In whose interest, would Government lose this 27 lakhs, Sir?

Sri N. RACHIAH.—In the interest of the State.

Sri M. R. PATIL.—Has the hon'ble Members from the district of Hassan protested against its introduction, Sir?

Sri N. RACHIAH.—No, Sir.

Sri C. K. RAJAIAH SETTY.—Does not the very fact that the members of the Opposition have expressed themselves against it, indicate that there is opposition to prohibition?

Sri N. RACHIAH.—Government always takes the House into confidence. We have taken the opinion of the Members.

Sri F. H. MOHSIN.—Is it not a fact that even the Communists drink?

Sri N. RACHIAH.—That is an opinion.

Sri J. B. MALLARADHYA.—Are Government aware that there is no need for any Member to protest on the floor of the House and that a decision has been taken behind the back of the whole Assembly?

Sri N. RACHIAH.—It is not done behind the back. It is left to the Government to take a decision. It has been communicated for the approval of the House.

Sri C. J. MUCKANNAPPA.—Did the Government take the sense of the House in introducing prohibition in Hassan District?

Sri N. RACHIAH.—It is the declared policy of the Government to extend prohibition.

Sri S. D. KOTHAVALE.—Is it not constitutionally correct for a party Government to be guided by party decisions?

Sri N. RACHIAH.—Yes.

Sri C. J. MUCKANNAPPA.—Do we take it that the opinions expressed by members from a certain district will be respected while taking a decision in respect of a certain matter concerning that district?

Sri N. RACHIAH.—That is one of the grounds on which we have taken this decision.

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಎಲ್. ನರಸಿಂಹಯ್ಯ.—ಹಾಸನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಪಾನನಿರೋಧವನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರುವ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಬೇರೆ ಯಾರಾದರೂ ಸದಸ್ಯರೂ ಕೂಡದೆಂದು, ಬೇಡವೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೇನು?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್. ರಾಚಯ್ಯ.—ಅರೀತಿ ಯಾರೂ ಹೇಳಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ವಿರೋಧ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಲೀ ಯಾರೊಬ್ಬರೂ ಬೇಡ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೆಂಬ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ಕೂಡ ನಾನೀಗ ಈ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭೆಯ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತರಲಿಚ್ಛಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

Award to the Writers of Books.

Q.—17. Sri B. K. NAGUR (Bijapur).—Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to their notice that writers are concerned over the method followed by them in giving State Awards totalling Rs. 25,000 and that the same is being criticised in papers;

(b) the names of the judges of the panel constituted to recommend books for State Awards;

(c) on what basis the panel of judges recommended books for prizes?

A.—Sri ANNA RAO GANAMUKHI (Minister for Education).—

(a) Yes.

(b) *Vide* list given below.

(c) On the basis of merit.